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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8378

LINDIS

1. IN MEETING WITH PRESIDENT THIEU JUNE 6, I SAID THAT I UNDERSTOOD THAT MR. TRUONG DINH DZU HAS NOT YET BEEN RELEASED FROM PRISON ALTHOUGH ON MAY 1 HE FINISHED THE TERM TO WHICH HE HAD BEEN SENTENCED FOR COMMITTING ACTIONS THAT "WEAKEN THE FIGHTING SPIRIT OF THE ARMY AND THE PEOPLE".
 2. I ADDED THAT MR. DZU'S CASE HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PRESS AND I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO INQUIRE ON BEHALF OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHAT THE PRESENT STATUS OF MR. DZU IS.
 3. THIEU REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT DZU'S PRESENT STATUS IS, BUT WOULD INQUIRE AND LET ME KNOW. HE REMARKED THAT IF DZU SHOULD CONTINUE TO TALK COALITION IT WOULD CAUSE DIFFICULTIES FOR THE GOVERNMENT. HE ADDED THAT IN SUCH A CASE, UNDER THE DECLARATION OF MARTIAL LAW AND EMERGENCY POWERS THE GOVERNMENT WOULD POSSESS THE RIGHT OF DETENTION, BUT ADDED THAT THIS HAD NOT BEEN EXERCISED SO FAR. I SHALL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW-UP IN MY NEXT MEETING WITH THIEU. BUNKER
- BT
#8378

State Dept. review completed

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